

UNLICENSED CONTRACTORS ARE BEING TARGETED

A fully staffed and dedicated police unit has been created to pursue and root out unlicensed contractor activity.

STING OPERATIONS

COMMERCIAL CHECKPOINTS



CONSTRUCTION SITE SWEEPS

REVIEW OF ADVERTISEMENTS IN VARIOUS PUBLICATIONS

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF BECOMING LICENSED?

- **FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE**
- **PAYMENT FOR YOUR WORK**
- **BUSINESS LOANS**
- **DISCOUNTS**
- **TAX BREAKS**
- **PROTECTION**
- **BIGGER JOBS**
- **MORE CONTACTS**
- **PROFESSIONAL STATURE**

Being licensed provides customers with assurances that they can expect qualified, skilled, reliable and accountable construction related performance.

Additional construction-related guidelines can be found at:

Buildit.miamidade.gov
Tools for building a better community

VISIT US ONLINE

Residents are encouraged to verify if a contractor is licensed, insured or if there are outstanding complaints against the license holder by visiting the Building & Neighborhood Compliance Department's webpage www.miamidade.gov/building and selecting the Contractor tab or clicking direct link http://www.miamidade.gov/building/online_contractor.asp. Residents can also call the Contractor Licensing Section at 786-315-2880 or dialing 3-1-1 (Miami-Dade County's Answer Center).

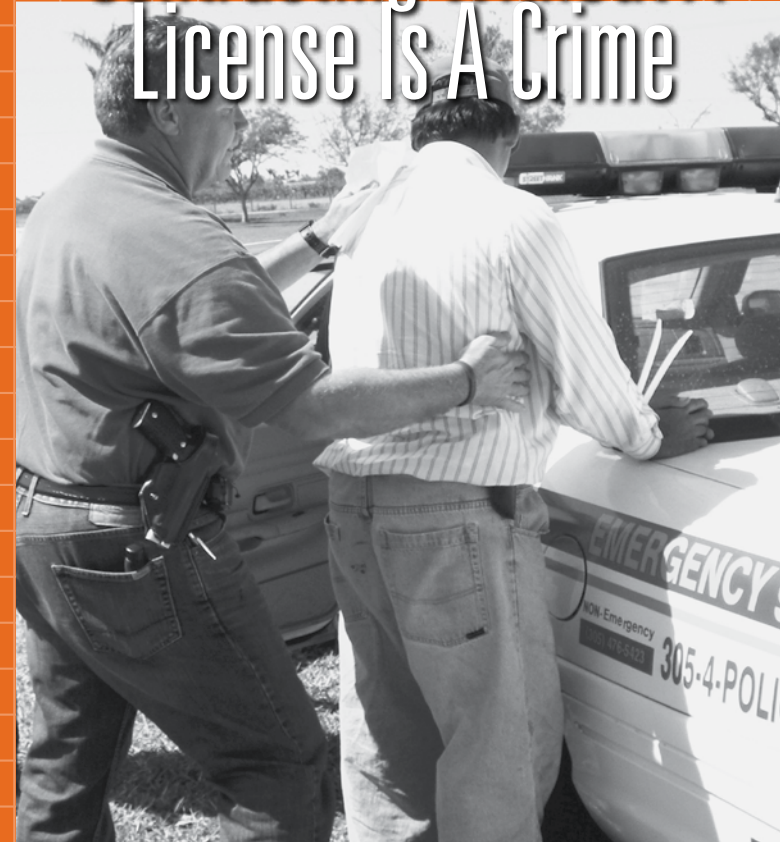


Miami-Dade County provides equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate on the basis of disability.

"It is the policy of Miami-Dade County to comply with all of the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act."

Why Should I Become A Licensed Contractor?

Contracting Without A License Is A Crime



A public information service of
Miami-Dade Building & Neighborhood Compliance Department
Permitting & Inspection Center
11805 S.W. 26th Street (Coral Way)
Miami, Florida 33175-2474 • (786) 315-2000
Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Excluding legal holidays

Why Should I Become A Licensed Contractor?

CONTRACTING WITHOUT A LICENSE IS A CRIME.

Unlicensed contracting may be charged as a first degree misdemeanor up to a third degree felony; punishable as provided in Chapter 775.082 and 775.083, Florida Statutes.



IT IS ILLEGAL TO ADVERTISE CONSTRUCTION SERVICES WITHOUT A LICENSE.

Advertising services regulated by Chapter 10, Code of Miami-Dade County or Chapter 489, Florida Statutes, without proper certification is a misdemeanor.

YOU ARE SUBJECT TO ARREST AND INCARCERATION.

First degree misdemeanors may be punished up to one year of imprisonment. During the existence of a state of emergency declared by the Governor, felonies of the third degree may be sentenced up to five years of imprisonment.

FACE FINES, PENALTIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE FEES.

Fines up to \$5,000.00 per count plus restitution and administrative fees may be levied against violators.

CUSTOMERS DO NOT HAVE TO PAY YOU.

Contracts entered into by an unlicensed contractor shall be unenforceable in law or in equity by the unlicensed contractor.

CANNOT WORK OPENLY; MUST CONCEAL ACTIVITIES.

Working after hours to hide from enforcement activities will eventually catch up to you. The investigators follow-up on cases and reports of unlicensed activity at all times, including weekends.

CANNOT OBTAIN INSURANCE.

Insurance companies recognize that unlicensed contractors represent too great a risk to insure at any price.

CANNOT LEGALLY OBTAIN PERMIT.

Applications for permits are only accepted from contractors holding a current certificate of competency and license in their respective field. All work performed without permits are deemed to be unsafe by the Florida Building Code.



HOW DO I BECOME A MIAMI-DADE COUNTY LICENSED CONTRACTOR?

Miami-Dade County issues more than 100 different types of contractor licenses in both personal and business categories. To obtain a new personal license from the Building and Neighborhood Compliance Department, you must first submit an application and meet certain experience requirements as well as maintaining a level of financial responsibility. Examinations for certificates of competency and eligibility are offered once a month. The exams are open book and the required books for each exam category will be provided at the time of application. Exams are offered in English or Spanish and special accommodations can be made for those who have disabilities. Some categories of licensure require no examination.

Once you have obtained a personal certificate of eligibility or competence, you are entitled to obtain a business license. To obtain a business license you must complete an application either as a sole proprietor, partnership, or a corporation. As a Qualifying Agent for a business, you must have a significant interest or financial interest in the entity you qualify as evidenced by the position as an officer or partner or principal stockholder in accordance with Section 10-6 (E) 5 of the Code of Miami-Dade County. Additionally, proof of liability insurance and workers' compensation insurance must be supplied to the Building and Neighborhood Compliance Department's Contractor Licensing Section. View online at www.miamidadade.gov/building and select Contractor tab.



Being licensed tells your customers that you are a true professional – knowledgeable, responsible, accountable and credible in the construction trade.